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DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

Intelligence Information Cable

● ROUTINE
IN 386037
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WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

3.5(c)

Classified by [redacted] Exemption Category 5B (1), (3) Impossible to Determine Date of Automatic Declassification.

FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT.

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DIST 8 SEPTEMBER 1977

REPORT CLASS SECRET--WARNING NOTICE--SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED-- 3.5(c)

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COUNTRY ARGENTINA

3.3(b)(1)

SUBJECT KIDNAPPING AND ASSASSINATION OF ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA BY A GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH ARGENTINE STATE INTELLIGENCE SECRETARIAT (SIDE) WITHOUT SIDE KNOWLEDGE OR AUTHORIZATION

3.3(b)(1)

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SECRET (classification) FURTHER DISSEMINATION AND USE OF THIS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CONTROLS STATED AT BEGINNING AND END OF REPORT.

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SUMMARY: HECTOR HIDALGO SOLA, ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA, WAS KIDNAPPED AND ASSASSINATED BY A SPECIAL GROUP, WHICH HAS WORKED FOR THE STATE INTELLIGENCE SECRETARIAT (SIDE), WITHOUT SIDE AUTHORIZATION OR KNOWLEDGE. THE SOLE MOTIVE FOR THE KIDNAPPING WAS TO DEMAND MONEY FROM HIS FAMILY. WHEN THE AUTHORITIES BEGAN AN INTENSIVE SEARCH FOR HIDALGO SOLA, THE GROUP BECAME AFRAID OF BEING DISCOVERED AND THEY KILLED HIM. THE GROUP WAS LED BY ONE ANIBAL "G O R D O N" AND INCLUDED THE SON-IN-LAW OF GENERAL OTTO P A L A D I N O, FORMER DIRECTOR OF SIDE. AFTER THE KILLING, THREE MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED AND THE OTHERS FLED ABROAD. END SUMMARY.

3.3(b)(1) 1. (COMMENT: PRESSURE HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND NATIONALLY TO FIND THE PERPETRATORS OF THE KIDNAPPING OF ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA HECTOR H I D A L G O S O L A WHO DISAPPEARED ON 18 JULY 1977.)

2. HIDALGO SOLA WAS KIDNAPPED AND ASSASSINATED BY A SPECIAL GROUP WHICH HAS WORKED FOR THE STATE INTELLIGENCE SECRETARIAT (SIDE), ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ONE ANIBAL "G O R D O N." THE GROUP DID NOT HAVE ORDERS FROM SIDE TO CARRY OUT THIS OPERATION AGAINST HIDALGO SOLA AND IT WAS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OR THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIDE.

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THE GROUP UNDERTOOK THE KIDNAPPING WITH THE SOLE MOTIVE OF DEMANDING RANSOM FROM THE FAMILY, THINKING THAT IT WOULD CREATE CONFUSION AND THAT THE FAMILY WOULD PAY A LARGE SUM OF MONEY. WHEN SECURITY FORCES BEGAN AN INTENSIVE EFFORT TO FIND HIDALGO SOLA, THE GROUP, AFRAID OF BEING DISCOVERED, DECIDED NOT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE FAMILY AND ASK FOR A RANSOM. INSTEAD THEY KILLED HIM AND HID HIS BODY.

3. WHEN HIDALGO SOLA WAS KIDNAPPED, HE WAS TAKEN TO A HOUSE AT BACABAY 3570 IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL WHICH SIDE RENTS AND USES FOR OFFICIAL OPERATIONS OF "GORDON'S" GROUP. AN ARMY COLONEL WHO WORKS FOR SIDE IS THE CONTACT BETWEEN SIDE AND "GORDON," AND MEETS "GORDON" IN THIS HOUSE. DURING THE TIME HIDALGO SOLA WAS IN THE HOUSE, HE WAS KEPT HOODED SO THAT IF THE COLONEL CAME THERE, HE WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE HIDALGO SOLA AND WOULD THINK THAT THE HOODED MAN WAS A SUBVERSIVE CAPTURED BY "GORDON'S" GROUP.

4. THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE SUCCEEDED IN DISCOVERING WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE HIDALGO SOLA CASE FOLLOWING AN INVESTIGATION OF A CASE OF A KIDNAPPED CHILD IN WHICH THE FAMILY PAID THE RANSOM AND THE CHILD WAS FREED. IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER OPERATION OF "GORDON'S" GROUP.

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5. "GORDON'S" GROUP CONSISTS OF "GORDON"; R O D R I G U E Z (FNU), AN OFFICER (RETIRED) OF THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE; AN INDIVIDUAL WITH THE ALIAS "Z A P A T I T O," WHO IS THE SON-IN-LAW OF GENERAL (RETIRED) OTTO P A L A D I N O, FORMER DIRECTOR OF SIDE; P A M P A N O (FNU), ALIAS "VILA"; ANOTHER MAN ON WHOM THERE IS NO IDENTIFYING INFORMATION; AND A DAUGHTER OF PAMPANO. "GORDON," RODRIGUEZ, "ZAPATITO," AND PAMPANO CARRIED OUT THE KIDNAPPING AND ASSASSINATION OF HIDALGO SOLA. THE DAUGHTER OF PAMPANO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INITIAL SURVEILLANCE OF THE TARGET. (COMMENT: IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT ROLE THE UNIDENTIFIED MAN PLAYED.) "ZAPATITO," PAMPANO, AND PAMPANO'S DAUGHTER WERE TAKEN PRISONERS IN LA PLATA BY THE BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIAL POLICE. ANIBAL "GORDON" FLED TO URUGUAY; RODRIGUEZ WENT TO SPAIN; AND THE UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUAL IN THE GROUP WENT TO PARAGUAY. 3.3(b)(1)

6. SIDE PREPARED AN OPERATION, WHICH WAS LATER SUSPENDED, TO ASSASSINATE MONTONERO LEADERS IN EUROPE. ANIBAL "GORDON" WAS THE PERSON WHO WAS TO DIRECT AND PERSONALLY TAKE PART IN THE OPERATION. (COMMENT: BECAUSE "GORDON" KNEW ABOUT THIS SIDE OPERATION AND BECAUSE OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN OTHER IMPORTANT SIDE CASES WITHIN ARGENTINA, NO OFFICIAL ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AGAINST "GORDON" OR HIS GROUP.) (COMMENT: 3.3(b)(1)

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IN LATE AUGUST 1977 SIDE WAS PREPARING OPERATIONS AGAINST MONTONERO LEADERS IN FRANCE AND ITALY.)

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7 (COMMENT:

GENERAL PALADINO WAS SEEKING AN OVERSEAS POST TO GET AWAY FROM BUENOS AIRES BECAUSE HE AND HIS WIFE WERE UPSET ABOUT THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF THEIR SON-IN-LAW, A FORMER SIDE OFFICER, FOR WHOM PALADINO DID A GREAT DEAL. THE SON-IN-LAW IS CESAR ALEJANDRO E N C I S O. ENCISO ALONG

3.3(b)(1)

WITH FOUR OTHER SIDE OFFICERS KIDNAPPED A WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN. WHEN THEY WERE FOUND OUT, THREE ESCAPED TO CHILE. ENCISO AND ONE OTHER ESCAPED TO BOGOTA, COLOMBIA. ALL FIVE TRAVELLED WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS. PALADINO'S DAUGHTER AND GRANDCHILDREN PLAN TO JOIN ENCISO IN BOGOTA AND WILL ALSO TRAVEL WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS.

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ENCISO HAD LEFT ARGENTINA ABOUT

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5 4 3 2 1 TWO MONTHS AGO AND THAT AT THE TIME OF THE KIDNAPPING ENCISO AND THE OTHERS WERE CONNECTED WITH SIDE. THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT 5 4 3 2 1

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THE KIDNAPPING ON BEHALF OF SIDE BUT SIDE DENIED THIS. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE DETAILS VARY AND THE TIME OF THE KILLING IS NOT KNOWN, THIS CONFIRMS THAT ENCISO WAS INVOLVED WITH A CRIMINAL GROUP.)

3.3(b)(1)

8. [redacted] COMMENTS:

A. DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JULY 1977, LEGATT RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE SOURCE THAT HE HAD SEEN A REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT AMBASSADOR HIDALGO SOLA HAD PERSONALLY BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING TWO ARGENTINE PASSPORTS IN VENEZUELA TO TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DETAINED IN ARGENTINA WITH THESE PASSPORTS. THE PASSPORTS ISSUED BY HIDALGO SOLA WERE UNDER FALSE IDENTITIES AND THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE IN POSSESSION OF THEM WERE IDENTIFIED AS TERRORISTS WHO HAD RECENTLY RETURNED TO ARGENTINA FROM CUBA. THE SOURCE REPORTED THAT A COMMENT TO THE AFOREMENTIONED REPORT NOTED THAT THE ARGENTINE CONSUL GENERAL IN VENEZUELA WOULD NORMALLY HAVE ISSUED SUCH PASSPORTS AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL ISSUANCE OF THESE PASSPORTS CLEARLY IMPLICATED HIM DIRECTLY WITH THE "TERRORISTS." WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE ARMY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIE) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIDALGO SOLA'S ABDUCTION, THE SOURCE EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT HIS SERVICE WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED BUT THAT HE HAD A STRONG FEELING THAT THE MOTIVATION FOR THE ABDUCTION OF THE AMBASSADOR WAS APPARENTLY CONNECTED WITH HIS OBVIOUS COMPLICITY IN EXTENDING FALSE DOCUMENTATION

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TO ARGENTINE TERRORISTS. THE SOURCE NOTED THAT THE REPORT HAD BEEN CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT THE ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

B. WITH REGARD TO ANIBAL "GORDON," IT IS BELIEVED THIS INDIVIDUAL IS IDENTICAL WITH ANIBAL (LNU) ALIAS "EL GORDO," ALSO KNOWN AS "EL VIEJO," A SIDE CONTRACT EMPLOYEE DURING THE PERIOD WHEN GENERAL PALADINO WAS SIDE DIRECTOR. ANIBAL LED A BAND OF COMMON CRIMINALS AND OPERATED A SIDE INTERROGATION CENTER REFERRED TO AS "EL JARDIN," WHICH WAS A CONVERTED PUBLIC GARAGE IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL. ANIBAL AND HIS BAND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ABDUCTION AND SUBSEQUENT ASSASSINATION OF TWO CUBAN DIPLOMATS IN BUENOS AIRES DURING AUGUST 1976. ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF ANIBAL'S GROUP WAS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO SUBSEQUENTLY MARRIED GENERAL PALADINO'S DAUGHTER.

C. AFTER PALADINO'S RETIREMENT, ANIBAL AND HIS GROUP REPORTEDLY WERE DISBANDED. HOWEVER, SEVERAL SIDE OFFICIALS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF ANIBAL AND HIS GROUP, SINCE IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT IN ADDITION TO CARRYING OUT OFFICIAL SIDE BLACK OPERATIONS, THEY ALSO WERE ALLOWED TO FREE LANCE BY CARRYING OUT SUCH OPERATIONS AS EXTORTIONS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR SIDE INCOME.

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D. IT IS STRONGLY BELIEVED THAT THE CHILD ALLEGEDLY KIDNAPPED AND RETURNED AFTER A RANSOM HAD BEEN PAID, AS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH FOUR OF THE ABOVE REPORT, PERTAINS TO THE KIDNAPPING OF THE YOUNG SON OF A U.S. CITIZEN WHO IS STILL MISSING. FROM INVESTIGATIONS IN THE KIDNAPPING, IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT ANIBAL IS IN PARAGUAY.

E. IT IS NOTED THAT ANIBAL AND HIS GROUP CARRIED OUT NUMEROUS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE BLACK OPERATIONS AGAINST THE TERRORIST TARGET AND THEIR RESPECTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THESE OPERATIONS WOULD BE EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING TO THE INCUMBENT MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ANIBAL AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP WOULD BE PROTECTED TO SOME EXTENT FROM NORMAL CRIMINAL CHARGES SHOULD THEY BE ARRESTED BY ARGENTINE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES, IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THAT THEY NOT DISCLOSE EMBARRASSING INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR PAST OPERATIONS.)

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